

SPECIFICATION

Page 3, paragraph between lines 16-32 is amended as follows.

Ionomer polymers include ethylene based polymers or copolymers of ethylene, ethylenically unsaturated C₃-C₈ carboxylic acid, and optionally one or more softening comonomers copolymerizable with ethylene, and blends of two or more polymers or copolymers thereof. The ethylenically unsaturated C₃-C₈ carboxylic acid is preferably present in an amount of about 3 weight % -25 weight %, relative to the weight of the polymer. The softening ~~monomer~~ comonomer is preferably present in an amount of less than about 25 weight %, relative to the weight of the polymer. Acrylic and methacrylic acids are preferred acid comonomers. The softening comonomer can be an alkyl acrylate selected from the group consisting of methyl acrylate, n-propyl-, iso-butyl-, n-butyl-, n-octyl-, 2-ethylhexyl-, and 2-methoxyethyl-acrylates. The preferred alkyl acrylates are iso-butyl-, n-butyl-, 2-ethylhexyl-, and 2-methoxyethyl-acrylates. The softening comonomer can also be an alkyl vinyl ether selected from the group consisting of n-butyl-, n-hexyl-, 2-ethylhexyl-, and 2-methoxyethyl-vinyl ether. The preferred alkyl vinyl ethers are n-butyl vinyl ether and n-hexyl vinyl ether.